

**NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

BRUSH MANAGEMENT

(Acre)
CODE 314

DEFINITION

Removal, reduction, or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.

PURPOSES

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Restore natural plant community balance.
- Create the desired plant community.
- Reduce competition for space, moisture, and sunlight between desired and unwanted plants.
- Manage noxious woody plants.
- Restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality and enhance stream flow.
- Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat including that associated with threatened and endangered species.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock.
- Protect life and property from wildfire hazards.
- Improve visibility and access for handling livestock.

CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

On rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, pasture and hay lands where removal or reduction of excessive woody (non-herbaceous) plants is desired.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable For All The Purposes Stated Above.

Brush management will be designed to achieve the desired plant community in woody plant density, canopy cover, or height.

Brush Management will be applied in a manner to achieve the desired control of the target woody species and protection of desired species. This will be accomplished by mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods.

Prescribed Grazing shall be applied to ensure desired response from treatments.

Additional Criteria For Improving Wildlife Habitat.

Brush Management will be planned and applied in a manner to meet the habitat requirements of the wildlife of concern.

Brush management will be planned in a manner that it will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their habitats.

<p>Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service.</p>

Additional Criteria For Reducing Wildfire Hazards.

Control undesirable woody plants in a manner that creates the desired plant community which does not provide wildfire hazard conditions.

CONSIDERATIONS

Timing and sequence of brush management in a pasture and/or the entire operating unit should be planned to ensure needed grazing management.

Consider soil erosion potential and difficulty of vegetation establishment when choosing a method of control that causes soil disturbance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications shall be prepared for each site or planning unit according to the Wyoming NRCS Conservation Practice Specifications.

Specifications shall be recorded using state developed specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in conservation plans, or other acceptable documents.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation: Brush Management practices shall be applied using approved materials and procedures. Operations will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances.

Success of the practice shall be determined by evaluating regrowth or reoccurrence of target species after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data. Evaluation periods will depend on the methods and materials used.

Maintenance: The manager will use "prescribed grazing" to insure longevity of the practice.

Following initial application, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush should be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be done as needed.